

Application No. 10/686,676
Attorney Docket No. 1030/0106PUS1
Response to Final Office Action of 4/19/06

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-24 are pending in the present application, with claims 1, 10, and 15, being independent. Claims 25-28 have been cancelled by this amendment without any prejudice to the subject matter contained therein.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication on page 4 of the outstanding Office Action that claims 1-9 would be allowable and that claims 1-25 are allowed. For at least the reasons detailed below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims should be considered allowable.

Drawings

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the acknowledgment that the drawings, which were submitted on February 2, 2006, have been approved.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objected to claims 1-9 because of a minor informality. Applicant has amended claim 1 as suggest by the Examiner. In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendments made to claim have not been made to overcome any prior art, and therefore, these amendments do not narrow the scope of the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

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Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 25-28 under 35 U.S.C. §102, as being anticipated by Chanton et al. (US 6,250,295). This rejection is respectfully traversed insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims.

First, Applicant notes that the Examiner indicates in the outstanding Office Action that claim 25 has been allowed. Applicant believes that this is a typographical error, and that the Examiner meant to indicate that claims 10-24 have been allowed. If Applicant's understanding is incorrect, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner advise of such.

Second, because claims 25-28 have been cancelled, the rejection against those claims is now rendered moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned at 1.703.621.7140 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Martin Geissler (Reg. 51,011) at telephone number below, which is located in the Washington, DC area.

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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3828 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully Submitted,

July 18, 2006
Date


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